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THE REA LINEMAN

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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CO-OP EMPLOYEE SAVES A LIFE

Quick thinking, quick action, and first aid training enabled Everett "Buck" Harlow, an employee of the Tri-County Electric Cooperative, to aid materially in saving the life of Raymond Stufflebean, a 21-year-old resident of Seneca, Illinois.

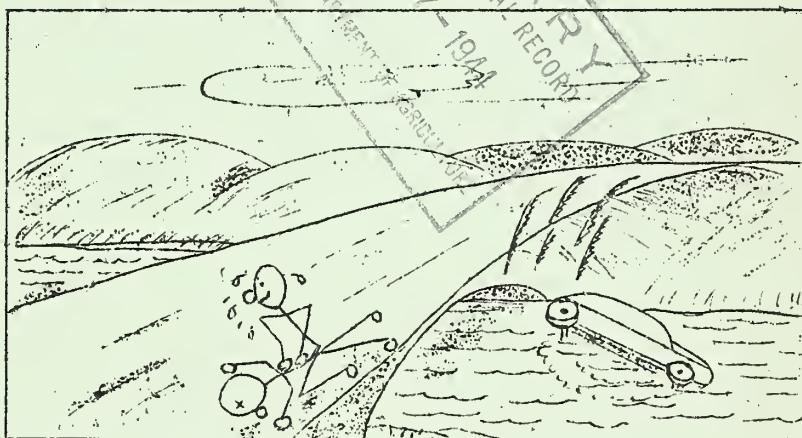
Stufflebean was driving on highway 37 south of Bakerville, Ill., when his car skidded into a slough at the side of the road, after passing the car driven by Harlow. Catapulted into two feet of water, Stufflebean's vehicle turned over partly on its side, throwing the driver partly through the open window and pinning him against the bank of the slough with his head under the water.

Harlow pulled to the side of the road, ran to the rescue and shouted to other passing motorists for help. After several attempts, he and another man raised one side of the car and got Stufflebean's head free from the water. The youth seemed lifeless, but Harlow immediately applied artificial respiration - although it seemed a hopeless task - and after half an hour's work the victim revived. As far as is known, Stufflebean has recovered completely.

B. H. Tuttle, manager of the Tri-County Co-op, sent this interesting article to "The Lineman" and said: "This is just another REA Co-op employee

to profit from the teachings of the safety and job training program. We are proud to have employees of this type and thankful they have this training."

We think Harlow is in line for the president's Medal for his alert action, and we agree with manager Tuttle that only the quick, ready confidence that comes from thorough training made it possible for Harlow to carry through with his successful rescue. It's easy to say, "I'll never need first aid training—why should I bother?" but events such as the one in Illinois always happen when least expected.



A SUPERVISOR'S LETTER

"TO ALL REA SYSTEM EMPLOYEES:

"The greatest safety device known to man is a thorough knowledge of the work at hand and that knowledge put to work with a firm determination to do the job safely.

"We have just received word through the St. Louis office of another fatal accident on an REA system, making a total of five fatalities this year.

"Four out of five of these men who lost their lives were not wearing their rubber gloves.

"May we again earnestly request the linemen, and under conditions that may require, the groundmen, to WEAR THOSE RUBBER GLOVES. They are no protection unless they are on your hands.

"Please fellows, let's not let it happen here."

published monthly in the interest of Safety
for Employees of Rea Systems

David A. Fleming, Editor

WARNING!

REA experience records show 80% of all electric shock accidents occur on just three types of poles — transformer poles, junction poles and disconnect poles.

The Safety unit warns all co-op linemen to be on the lookout — a high percentage of their energized work is done on such poles.

These particular assemblies are dangerous culprits. They are not hidden in the jungle to snipe — they are out in plain sight, even along our most traveled highways. Law enforcement officers are helpless. Guns, blackjacks and handcuffs will not handle them. They can be handled only by good linemen with rubber gloves, hot tools or protective grounds.

The handling of these "hot spots" must be considered special work and all precaution possible must be taken. Look them over carefully. Size up the proper approach and proceed with extreme caution. De-energize these points whenever possible, and install protective grounds. Notify the members in advance. They will cooperate with you on any reasonable request to take the line out of service. If forced to work on these poles "hot", use your rubber gloves all the way. Use your hot line clamp sticks. Assume a position on the pole where you are in the clear. Ask for help when you need it. Ask your manager to give you supervision from the ground. These "specials" can be handled safely by good linemen.

A young man serves a long apprenticeship in order to become a good lineman. After this apprenticeship he has become a skilful worker capable of performing all the jobs that may come up in his particular trade. This man is proud of his skill and experience. He knows he should demand and get respect and he is valuable to his employer because he can do the jobs that the employer wants done.

A preventable accident is a reflection on somebody, either the lineman or the employer.

Sometimes a lineman may lose the respect of other linemen because he did not work safely, and safety is a very definite part of his skill if he is a good lineman.

The reflection may be on the employer. Perhaps he permitted an untrained man to try to do a job that was too much for him. If this man was untrained, he was not a good lineman, and by the same line of reasoning, he may not have had a good employer.

The responsibility on the part of the employer cannot be overlooked. Failure to see that all cooperative employees are properly trained to follow safety recommendations can mean only one thing — lack of employers' realization of responsibility for their employees.

1. An employee injured his back while setting a pole. No time lost.

2. A laborer, digging a pole hole, was prying a large rock with a digging bar. The bar slipped and struck his head opening a gash above his right eye which required clips for proper closure.

3. An employee was removing stakes from a flat car, preparatory to unloading poles. When one stake was removed the remainder broke, as did the binders, and 25 poles fell on the man. He suffered a fractured spinal column and internal injuries.

4. The loop in a hand-line pulled loose as a coffin-hoist was being lowered from a pole. The coffin-hoist fell about 20 feet and struck the groundman on top of the head. He was hospitalized several days.

5. A lineman was descending from a pole when his hooks caught on a fence. He fell, breaking his glasses and cutting his head. No time lost.

6. A lineman strained muscles in abdomen lifting a line from an insulator. No time lost.

7. A lineman, wearing his climbers, was helping to raise a pole. He stepped on another employee's foot, injuring the other's toe. No time lost.

8. As two 500-lb. reels of wire were being moved into position for stringing, one slipped against the other, catching a lineman's hand. The thumb and palm were mashed.

9. A woman office employee was cleaning an electrically-driven duplicating machine in motion. The rag caught and pulled her hand into the machine, mashing a finger, and causing loss of the fingernail.

SAFETY CONFERENCE PLANNED FOR ST. LOUIS

Plans are in the mill for a St. Louis Conference of Safety and Job Training Supervisors the last week of September. The trip to St. Louis could be combined with the Chicago meeting of the National Safety Council the first week in October. We plan to have each supervisor give us his job breakdown on one particular operation. The conference will discuss the breakdowns with the possible adoption by all. Ideas can be exchanged; suggestions discussed and thoroughly threshed out. We believe a great deal of good can be accomplished in this manner.

Larry Meyer has made an extensive study of safe-working position that we believe will be of much interest and help to all supervisors.

Plan to be here,

BURNED WHILE CHANGING POLE

A cooperative manager and lineman were preparing to replace a pole. The top had been broken off just below the neutral bracket and was swinging in the wind.

The manager was busy with the cable used to drag in the new pole about one hundred and fifty feet away.

The lineman climbed the pole to see what material would be needed, his hand contacted the neutral and he was severely burned on both hands.

DISCUSSION:

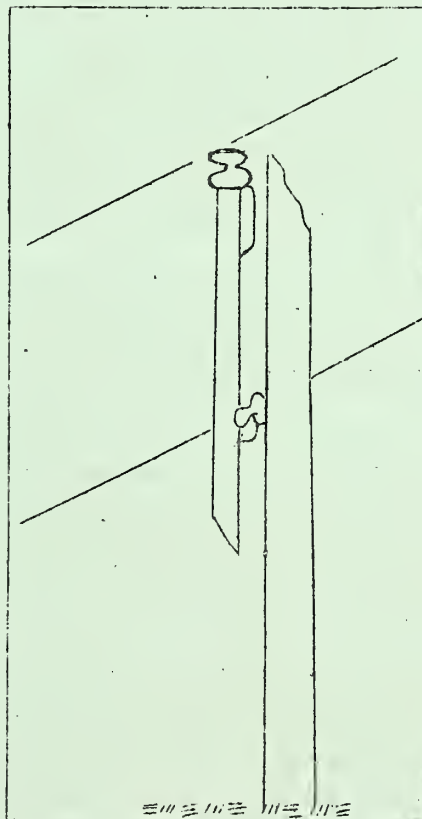
From the sketch sent in, we believe this pole was an A-1. Burns on the hands indicate the absence of rubber gloves on the hands. The job was planned to cut down the outage on the line.

Why did this lineman climb this pole to see what materials would be needed for an A-1?

Why did this manager permit this lineman to climb this pole without rubber gloves on his hands?

There is no emergency of this kind that would justify the taking of any chances of injury to anyone.

Rubber gloves are not made to handle 6,900 volts, but rubber gloves on the hands of this lineman might have prevented this accident. If this man's hands were burned by contacting the neutral, the hot phase must have been swinging into the top of the pole stub.



LETTER FROM A MANAGER IN ARKANSAS

To Editor,
"The Lineman":

"We appreciate very much receiving the REA Lineman each month, and we have found it very beneficial in our safety meetings discussing accidents that have happened on other systems. Since we have five linemen, we would appreciate having six copies each month in order for each lineman to have a copy and be able to retain one in our office file.

"We have coined the following slogan for the benefit of our linemen; 'There is nothing a man can do to prevent an accident after it happens.'"

(The Editor is gratified to know "The Lineman" is helpful to its readers)

TIME FOR SALT TABLETS;

They restore the salt to the body that is lost by excess perspiration, thereby reducing the chance of being overcome by heat and fatigue,

DISCUSSION CASE

FIRST AID

Here is a report of a fatal accident occurring to a cooperative line foreman. The time was about 5:00 P.M. The weather was good.

The foreman and two helpers were engaged in converting a primary line of 7,200 volts to a secondary, moving the transformer back 1,100 feet. The conversion was complete, with the exception of installing the cutout, arrestor and connecting the transformer.

The primary tap had been de-energized to do this work, but the foreman and one helper energized the primary line and proposed to finish the transformer with the line hot.

The foreman climbed the pole and buckled off above the neutral bracket. The helper was preparing to send the cutout up when he heard an arc. Looking up, he saw the foreman fall back. The second helper ran about 500 feet, climbed the pole and lowered the foreman to the ground. Occupants of a nearby house called doctors and the fire department for a pulmotor. A former nurse administered the prone pressure method of artificial respiration for about thirty minutes until the pulmotor arrived. The pulmotor was used for about one hour. The doctors pronounced the foreman dead -- he left a wife and three children. The burns were on the right hand, leg and foot.

DISCUSSION:

We know these men knew the line was hot. We know that rubber gloves were not on the hands of the victim and the right hand was terribly burned. We know a helper climbed the pole to remove the foreman. A woman administered artificial respiration on the ground for some thirty minutes. She should be highly commended for her efforts. A pulmotor was used for about an hour.

The writer of the report states: "There was no fault of equipment, neither do we think there was any disobedience of safety rules. He was not wearing rubber gloves, for he was not doing a job where he was liable to need them." We cannot say that any safety rules were violated. We do not know what the rules are on this particular cooperative. The fact that this man contacted a hot wire with his hand is very definite proof that he needed rubber gloves on his hands.

Burns on the hands, legs and feet are not necessarily fatal. It is possible that pole-top resuscitation could have saved this man's life. The fact that these helpers had not been trained for pole-top or prone pressure system of artificial respiration is a good indication that this particular cooperative's safety rules were not very good.

Considerable secondary work was done with the primary line de-energized. The job could have been planned to have the necessary primary and transformer work completed before the line was energized, leaving the secondary work to be completed after the line was energized.

The writer of the report failed to sign his name. "Project Superintendent" was typed below the signature space. Records show that this "Project Superintendent" has been in charge of this cooperative for several years. Perhaps he did at some time see Operations Memorandums Nos. 22.3 and 22.6 covering the REA recommendations that all workmen be trained to administer artificial respiration and the necessity of wearing rubber gloves on all poles carrying energized circuits. Perhaps he has forgotten these recommendations. Every issue of "The Lineman" brings out the rubber gloves recommendation. Is it possible that these memorandums or issues of "The Lineman" were not passed on to the employees of this cooperative? Were they aware of the danger of working on a pole carrying energized circuits without wearing rubber gloves? Had they been told of the necessity of all

Two REA accidents reported recently bring to mind the importance of first aid and the unfortunate results of victims who do not have the advantage of first aid at the time of injury.

A victim of electric shock did not receive immediate attention when such attention might have saved his life. A man with five fractured bones in his foot did not receive medical attention until several hours after the accident, and the swelling prevented the doctor from reducing the fractures for several days. These accidents occurred in states that have not had the advantage of a Safety and Job Training Program with instruction on first aid.

The Red Cross has instructors all over the United States. They have always cooperated with us in our requests for instructions to cooperative employees. May we take this opportunity to urge all cooperatives that do not have the benefit of this training for their employees, to get in touch with the Red Cross in their communities and secure an instructor to give their people this training. Board members, managers, office force, can take this training without cost. Perhaps there may be others in your community who would be glad to take this training. Twenty to twenty-five people make a very good class.

outside employees being trained to administer artificial respiration for their own protection? Had this project superintendent, himself, been so trained, or does he depend upon the fire house pulmotor arriving 30 minutes after an electric shock accident, or the possibility of some outside person appearing at the scene of all electric shock accidents to administer artificial respiration?